IN THE CLAIMS:

1. *(currently amended)* A system for providing locally generating prompts/announcements in a telecommunications network, the system comprising

a centralized service for storing a plurality of prompt/announcement files, said plurality including various types of files and organized in a system with respect to system user characteristics;

a telecommunications device located in close proximity to the user, said telecommunications device for downloading a predetermined subset of files associated with said user characteristics from said plurality of files; and

at least one communication device for interacting with said telecommunications device and selecting the predetermined subset of files from said plurality of files to be downloaded.

2. *(original)* The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one communication device comprises a telephone with a keypad for selecting prompt/announcement files.

3. *(original)* The system as defined in claim 2 wherein the selected prompt/announcement files comprise voice files.

4. *(original)* The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one communication device comprises a computer with a keyboard for selecting prompt/announcement files.

5. *(original)* The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the selected files are chosen from a group consisting of text files, video files and multimedia files.

6. *(currently amended)* The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one communication device comprises

a telephone with a keypad for selecting a first subset group of files; and

a computer with a keyboard for selecting a second ~~subset~~ group of files.

7. *(currently amended)* The system as defined in claim 6 wherein the first ~~subset~~ group of files comprises voice files and the second ~~subset~~ group of files comprises files chosen from a group consisting of text files, video files and multimedia files.

8. *(original)* The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the network comprises an HFC network and the telecommunications device comprises a communication gateway.

9. *(currently amended)* A method of providing client-side prompt/announcement files for use by a subscriber on a local telecommunications device from a plurality of prompt/announcement files stored on a centralized server, the method comprising the steps of:

a) determining subscriber-specific characteristics;

b) determining the type of user entry device;

c) downloading a subset of prompt/announcement files from the centralized server to the local telecommunications device based upon the determined subscriber-specific characteristics and the determined type of user entry device.

10. *(currently amended)* The method as defined in claim 9 wherein in performing step a), the subscriber-specific characteristics include language, location and subscribed-to telecommunication services.

11. *(original)* The method as defined in claim 9 wherein in performing step b), the user entry device comprises a telephone with a keypad and in performing step c), voice files are downloaded.

12. *(currently amended)* The method as defined in claim 9 wherein in performing step b), the user entry device comprises a computer with a keyboard and in performing step c), the files are chosen from a group consisting of text files, video files and multimedia files ~~are downloaded~~.

13. *(new)* The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the user characteristics include the user's language, location and subscribed-to telecommunication services.